

SENATE BILL 19

R7

11r1092
CF 11r0589

By: **Senator Colburn**

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2011

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Gross Weight Limits – Farm Vehicles and Vehicles Carrying**
3 **Farm Products**

4 FOR the purpose of allowing certain vehicles that are registered as farm vehicles or
5 that are carrying certain farm products, and that are loaded in a certain
6 location, a certain gross weight limit tolerance under certain circumstances; and
7 generally relating to gross weight limits for farm vehicles and vehicles carrying
8 farm products.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Transportation
11 Section 24–109
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Transportation**

17 24–109.

18 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

19 (2) “Single axle weight” means the total weight transmitted by all
20 wheels whose centers may be included between 2 parallel transverse vertical planes 40
21 inches apart extending across the full width of the vehicle.

22 (3) “Tandem axle weight” means the total weight transmitted to the
23 road by 2 or more consecutive axles whose centers may be included between parallel

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 vertical planes spaced more than 40 inches apart but not more than 96 inches apart
2 extending across the full width of the vehicle.

3 (b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this title, the overall gross
4 weight on a group of 2 or more consecutive axles may not exceed an amount produced
5 by application of the following formula:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \quad \quad \quad (\quad LN \quad) \\
 W = 500 & \quad (\quad \quad \quad + 12N + 36) \\
 & \quad \quad \quad (\quad N-1 \quad)
 \end{aligned}$$

9 where "W" = overall gross weight on any group of 2 or more consecutive axles to the
10 nearest 500 pounds, "L" = distance in feet measured horizontally between the vertical
11 centerlines of the extreme of any group of 2 or more consecutive axles, and "N" =
12 number of axles in group under consideration, except that 2 consecutive sets of tandem
13 axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds each providing the overall distance
14 between the first and last axles of such consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or
15 more; provided, that such overall gross weight may not exceed eighty thousand
16 (80,000) pounds, including any enforcement or statutory tolerances.

17 (c) The following table indicates the permissible overall gross weights based
18 upon the above formula:

19 Distance in						
20 feet						
21 between the						
22 extremes of						
23 any						
24 group of 2						
25 or more						
26 consecutive						
27 axles	2 axles	3 axles	4 axles	5 axles	6 axles	7 axles
28 4	34,000					
29 5	34,000					
30 6	34,000					
31 7	34,000					
32 8	34,000	34,000				
33 and less						
34 More	38,000	42,000				
35 than						
36 8						
37 9	39,000	42,500				
38 10	40,000	43,500				
39 11		44,000				
40 12		45,000	50,000			
41 13		45,500	50,500			

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1	14	46,500	51,500			
2	15	47,000	52,000			
3	16	48,000	52,500	58,000		
4	17	48,500	53,500	58,500		
5	18	49,500	54,000	59,000		
6	19	50,000	54,500	60,000		
7	20	51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000	
8	21	51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500	
9	22	52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000	
10	23	53,000	57,500	62,500	68,000	
11	24	54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500	74,000
12	25	54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000	74,500
13	26	55,500	59,500	64,000	69,500	75,000
14	27	56,000	60,000	65,000	70,000	75,500
15	28	57,000	60,500	65,500	71,000	76,500
16	29	57,500	61,500	66,000	71,500	77,000
17	30	58,500	62,000	66,500	72,000	77,500
18	31	59,000	62,500	67,500	72,500	78,000
19	32	60,000	63,500	68,000	73,000	78,500
20	33		64,000	68,500	74,000	79,000
21	34		64,500	69,000	74,500	80,000
22	35		65,500	70,000	75,000	
23	36	Exception:				
24		See				
25		subsection				
26		(b), this				
27		section	(66,000)	70,500	75,500	
28	37		(66,500)	71,000	76,000	
29	38		(67,500)	72,000	77,000	
30	39		68,000	72,500	77,500	
31	40		68,500	73,000	78,000	
32	41		69,500	73,500	78,500	
33	42		70,000	74,000	79,000	
34	43		70,500	75,000	80,000	
35	44		71,500	75,500		
36	45		72,000	76,000		
37	46		72,500	76,500		
38	47		73,500	77,500		
39	48		74,000	78,000		
40	49		74,500	78,500		
41	50		75,500	79,000		
42	51		76,000	80,000		
43	52		76,500			
44	53		77,500			
45	54		78,000			
46	55		78,500			
47	56		79,500			
48	57		80,000			

1 (d) The gross weight of any vehicle or combination of vehicles may not exceed
2 the following limits:

	Number of axles	Gross weight (in pounds)
3	Three or less	55,000
4	Four	66,000
5	Five as provided for in § 13–916 or § 13–923 of 6 this article	80,000

7 (e) A trailer with metal tires and a gross weight of more than 6,000 pounds
8 may not be moved on a highway.

9 (f) (1) Except on interstate highways, a single unit vehicle with 3 axles,
10 or a combination of vehicles with a trailer less than 32 feet long or a semitrailer less
11 than 45 feet long, either registered as a farm vehicle or carrying farm products as
12 defined under § 10–601 of the Agriculture Article that were loaded in fields or other
13 off-highway locations, is permitted **A GROSS WEIGHT AND** an axle load limit
14 tolerance of 5 percent from subsections (b) and (c) of this section, except during harvest
15 time when **A GROSS WEIGHT LIMIT TOLERANCE OF 5 PERCENT AND** an axle load
16 limit tolerance of 15 percent from subsections (b) and (c) of this section [is] **ARE**
17 permitted for a vehicle carrying the following agricultural products:

- 18 (i) Wheat, for the period from June 1 to August 15;
- 19 (ii) Corn, for the period from July 1 to December 1;
- 20 (iii) Soybeans, for the period from September 1 to December 31;
- 21 and
- 22 (iv) Vegetable crops, for the period from June 1 to October 31.

23 (2) (i) Except on interstate highways, a single unit vehicle with at
24 least 3 axles or a combination of vehicles with a trailer length of less than 32 feet
25 carrying forest products that have been loaded in forests or other similar off-highway
26 locations is permitted an axle load limit tolerance of 10 percent from subsections (b)
27 and (c) of this section, except for the period from June 1 through September 30 when
28 an axle load limit tolerance of 15 percent from subsections (b) and (c) of this section is
29 permitted.

30 (ii) Except on interstate highways, a combination of vehicles
31 with a semitrailer length of 45 feet or less carrying forest products that have been
32 loaded in forests or other similar off-highway locations is permitted an axle load limit
33 tolerance of 5 percent from subsections (b) and (c) of this section, except for the period
34
35
36

1 from June 1 through September 30 when an axle load limit tolerance of 15 percent
2 from subsections (b) and (c) of this section is permitted.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 October 1, 2011.